



NAVAL AIR ENGINEERING STATION

Lakehurst, New Jersey

PRESS RELEASE

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Navy Lakehurst to get new Commanding Officer

August 24, 2005, NAES Lakehurst, NJ -- Captain L. Bret Gordon, will relieve Captain Mark L. Bathrick in a traditional change-of-command ceremony beginning at 1:00 p.m., August 25, 2005 in the base gymnasium as he advances from executive officer to commanding officer.

Captain Frank Sweigart, USN, Retired, will preside as orders from the Secretary of the Navy are read and command is changed from CAPT Bathrick to CAPT Gordon as guests and employees witness the event.

CAPT Gordon, a 1980 graduate of the Naval Academy, has served as an Aerospace Maintenance Officer, Quality Assurance Officer and Production Control Officer aboard aircraft carriers during his career. He has also been the Chief Logistician for the F-14 Tomcat and was assigned to the Pentagon as a Senior Military Advisor for Maintenance Policy, Programs and Resources.

CAPT Gordon is married to the former Beth Leadbetter of Moundsville, WV. They reside in Lakehurst, NJ with their two children, Blake and Kate.

NAES Lakehurst supports the Navy's aircraft carriers and also smaller ships designed to launch and recover helicopters as part of their missions. Employees at the base design, develop, test and improve anything

that links aircraft to ships or support those that do. This includes supporting the large catapult and recovery systems, aircraft testing and support systems and the 500,000 items needed to support the variety of carrier-based aircraft.

NAES Lakehurst will also be the future home of the first Joint Service base. It will combine with McGuire AFB and Fort Dix as one of the model installations for the Department of Defense's transformation toward joint military operations.

CAPT Bathrick is retiring from the Navy after over 25 years of service. Since his youth in New York, CAPT Bathrick has flown 3,700 hours in 31 different types of aircraft (mostly in the F-14 Tomcat) and has logged over 800 carrier landings. He is also a 1980 graduate from the Naval Academy, the Navy's Fighter Weapons School (TOPGUN), and the British Empire Test Pilots' School. He has been a chief test pilot and a commanding officer in three separate commands. During his tenure as commanding officer at NAES Lakehurst, the base was selected as the best managed Navy installation worldwide, receiving the 2004 Commander-In-Chief's Installation Excellence Award. CAPT Bathrick was also recognized with the Dale Carnegie Leadership Award, marking the first time this award was bestowed on a CEO in the public sector. CAPT Bathrick's ground breaking strategy of Joint Basing and development of the Dix-Lakehurst-McGuire Joint Installation Partnership have largely been credited with keeping Lakehurst off the BRAC 2005 closure list and a model on which the 12 proposed new Department of Defense Joint Bases were based.

CAPT Bathrick is married to the former Marybeth Hennessy, also of Whitesboro, and they currently reside in Lakehurst, with their son Mark who is a Freshman at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Media are welcome and should plan to arrive at the base Pass and ID Office at the front gate by 12:30 p.m.

Navy Lakehurst – “A Heritage of Service, A Model for the Future”